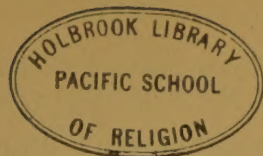


The Christian News-Letter

Edited by
J. H. OLDHAM



No. 152

SEPTEMBER 23RD, 1942

DEAR MEMBER,

Used as we are to horrors, public feeling has been shocked by the mass deportation of Jews from France, the ruthless breaking up of families and such reports as that of a train-load of 4,000 children, unaccompanied and without identification papers, being sent to Germany. It is one thing to denounce such outrages in security, and quite another to have the courage to protest when the personal consequences may be serious.

FRENCH CHRISTIANS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

A further issue of *Cahiers du Témoinage Chrétien*, the series of secretly published documents referred to in last week's News-Letter, deals with the subject of anti-Semitism. The pamphlet contains an impressive statement of the facts of the persecution of the Jews throughout Europe and of the recent anti-Jewish legislation in France, quotations from German and French anti-Semitic literature, and statements by leading Roman Catholic and Protestant authorities showing the un-Christian character of anti-Semitism. In the light of this information the authors of the pamphlet express the following judgment :—

"Christians, we have the urgent duty to bear witness before all our brethren, following the inalienable principles of our faith, that anti-Semitism is incompatible with Christianity. In witnessing against anti-Semitism for truth and justice, we are witnessing for Christ. No temporal authority can dispense us from this witness, no spiritual authority can complain about this witness. If we are not authorised to speak in the name of our Churches, we can at any rate recall the authentic witness of the Churches of which we are members; and if we are sometimes sad that this official witness did not have in our country, before it was too late, the broad influence and force of appeal which might perhaps have prevented the public authorities from adopting for France an anti-Semitism which was obviously of foreign pagan inspiration, we know at least that our personal witness as Christians is the faithful echo of the judgment of our hierarchical leaders upon anti-Semitism; we clearly affirm that this witness corresponds to the unequivocal demands of Christianity and the integrity of the message of Jesus Christ.

"If one day this witness has to be taken before the tribunals, we shall not seek to avoid it, remembering the word of the Lord: 'Ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, to be a witness to them and to the nations.' Without reproach and without fear, we shall be glad to serve as we do to-day in honour and fidelity. Even our silence and imprisonment will still be a witness. And the friends who will take our place will be legion, so that the Christian witness may continue to be affirmed in the proud independence of humble and grateful obedience to God."

The Bishops have issued a pastoral letter, which has been read in the pulpits throughout unoccupied France, condemning the persecution and urging Roman Catholics to give every help to persecuted Jews and foreigners. Many of the Jewish children are being fed and sheltered in Roman Catholic homes, and a number of Jesuit priests have been imprisoned for refusing to surrender for deportation hundreds of Jewish children who have been under their protection. Cardinal Gerlier, the Archbishop of Lyons, has refused to authorize the surrender of children, and it is reported that the Military Governor of

Lyons has been dismissed by Laval for refusing to co-operate in the mass arrests of Jews in the unoccupied zone.

MORE ABOUT WORK

The writer of the following letter is an officer in the Army :

" You probably find it useful on the whole to get remarks on the Christian News-Letter, even though thoughtless and superficial, because that is what 99 people are out of 100—even C.N.-L. readers, though perhaps I can allow them 98 per cent. My thoughtless and superficial response to Professor Grisebach's remarks about work on the last pages of Supplement No. 148 is twofold. I think Grisebach has allowed his personal preference for what he calls the 'early Christian attitude to work' (i.e. that it is not what we do that matters, but what happens to us) to prejudice him against what he called the 'Christian humanism' of that poor whipping-boy, the old nineteenth century.

" Speaking for myself, I feel much the same about the early Christian pioneers as I do when I am continually referred for military excellence to the German Army. I am not either an early Christian or a German. It is most useful to know how they set about their respective jobs, but at least I know this about my own job, that it isn't theirs. The 'early Christian' attitude to work strikes me as only half the truth. There is work for work's sake, I am satisfied to think, though I should like to call it work for the glory of God—anyway not just as a vehicle for human relationships. That degrades truth and beauty—science or mechanical excellence. Perhaps we are paying now for the sins of our Victorian forbears, but I still prefer their attitude to work.

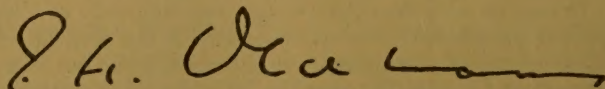
" Berdyaev, now, has a really satisfying bit about creation in his *Freedom and the Spirit*. To my mind, when he claims that there is a right moment even in Christianity for the temporary eclipse of humanity in the ecstasy of creation, that's what I like to be told!

" So Grisebach will have to go back to early Christianity on his own as far as concerns Yours truly, —."

THE SUPPLEMENT

The contacts of the Christian News-Letter have in the past, through force of circumstances, been too predominantly with academic circles. As a result of the move to London and other developments, the range of contacts has been widened. One of the first fruits of this expansion is this week's Supplement. It has grown out of discussion among a group of younger business men and has been submitted to a number of persons with a knowledge of industry, and revised in the light of their comments. As in all signed Supplements, the writer, while he has benefited from advice by others, is alone responsible for the views expressed.

Yours sincerely,



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